

Maybe He Can Explain Political Mess at Lomita Post Office

By GROVER C. WHYTE

It may make sense to political-minded Congressman Lee Geyer to tell Postmaster Birda Padock of Lomita (who has nearly 15 years' postal experience to her credit) that she has not had sufficient experience for the office and at the same time nominate to the office his political nemesis Earl F. Fischel (whose arrest approach to postal training was distributing campaign literature for Geyer); but to rationally-minded citizens it all sounds like so much phoney.

Letters from the U. S. civil service commission to the 15 candidates who recently took the examination for postmaster in Lomita were received late last week by the applicants. The communications verified earlier reports that holders of the coveted three top positions, (from which the appointment is supposed to be made) were: Albert Owens of 2347 West 240th place, Earl F. Fischel of 1932 Roosevelt Highway and Martin Jensen of 2309 West 241st street.

Ridiculous Excuses
All others of the 15 candidates including the incumbent postmaster, Miss Birda Paddock, received no report on their grades obtained mimeographed forms which informed them it was found they had "not sufficient experience for the office."

No Grades Given
Two other candidates, who were not graded, had had previous postal experience. In fact, contrary to the almost universal custom of the civil service commission, no grades whatever have been announced.

Mosher In Mess
An amusing sidelight to the political farce is the sudden change of heart on the part of E. M. Mosher, publisher of the Lomita Progress. Until the move to unseat Postmaster Paddock, Mosher was an ardent Republican. Nothing he could say about the New Deal was bad enough.

Owens Most Popular
Maybe the Congressman is within his political rights in wanting to replace Miss Paddock because she did not plug hard enough for him last election, but Lomita people are quite within their rights too in demanding that an efficient person be appointed in her place.

Air Defense Meeting to Be Held Tuesday
Commander Lyle C. Doan has called a meeting of all organizations and industries in the city for Tuesday afternoon, July 11, at 3 o'clock in the city council chamber for the purpose of preparing for the air defense exercises in Southern California.

STEEL MEN ADVANCED
Promotion of Lou Greenman, chief time keeper at the Columbia Steel plant for the past eight years, to personnel manager this week made possible a step-by-step advancement for seven other Columbia Steel employees this week according to an announcement made today by Superintendent Henry T. Lintott.

Mink Kittens On Exhibition at Fur Farm
Several hundred mink kittens, fuzzy little animals predestined for \$5,000 mink coats, are now on exhibition at the North Torrance "minkery" of Fur Farms, Associated, at 227 West 182nd street.

HOMES BUILT IN JUNE
New home construction on 12 lots accounted for more than half of the June building activity here. The home valuation is \$28,550 while the total new construction for the month was \$55 as compared to \$119,415 the same month last year.

GAINS CONTINUE AT LOMITA P. O.
Reporting gross receipts of more than 60 percent increase over figures of five years ago when she took office, Postmaster Birda Paddock said this week that receipts at the Lomita post office last month were the greatest of any month since April, 1937, excluding the Christmas business.

Business at the Lomita post office last fiscal year gained five percent over business of 1937-38, she announced. The quarters' figures for April, May and June also showed a substantial increase over the same quarter a year ago.

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SECTION A

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BASEBALL TOURNEY BEGINS SATURDAY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES SCHEDULE

DOUBLE-HEADER AT CITY PARK DIAMOND TO LAUNCH SERIES

Promptly at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon the California State Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament will get under way at the city park diamond with a double-header on tap for fan enjoyment. Shell Athletic club of Dominguez and March Field will tangle in the initial encounter with Bank of America opposing El Centro in the twilight game.

Quiet Fourth Here Was Not So Uneventful

It was the quietest Fourth of July Police Chief John Stroh has seen here in 16 years—BUT

The holiday started off Monday night with a fire caused by a firecracker that destroyed a five-car garage, a "cut-down" racing car and a large quantity of household goods at 716 Portola.

Four small boys and a 38-year-old Lomita longshoreman were treated at Torrance Memorial hospital for firecracker burns.

A Redondo Beach WPA worker was jailed for driving while intoxicated after he had crashed his car into another machine on Highway 101 and fractured his wrist late Tuesday night, and

A monkey caused the major disturbance of the holiday in the 2000 block on Gramercy, successfully eluding his pursuers until late yesterday morning.

Otherwise, it was a safe and sane Fourth for Torrance residents—or at least those who remained at home. Elsewhere throughout the nation the mid-summer holiday took a toll of more than 700 lives—75 of the fatalities occurring in California.

Simian on Rampage
Typed across a whole page of the police blotter was this comment by Police Chief Stroh:

"The quietest Fourth I have experienced in 16 years. Not one call up to 4 p. m. Everything OK in town and in the country. Ten people in town and all at the two shows."

But at 5:50 p. m., monkey-shines began to happen. A pet simian owned by a family which recently moved into the 2000 block on Gramercy decided things were much too quiet on the Fourth. He escaped and began an investigation that only stopped when he was recaptured some 18 hours later—a tired but still active ape who had worn off most of the hair from his tail with his swings thru the trees.

Chase and Yesterday
The police report of the monkey's antics is most illuminating: "5:30 p. m.—Monkey loose in neighborhood of 2015 Gramercy. Was last seen with his tail in the air coming down a large pepper tree in rear yard of that address and headed in general direction of San Pedro."

"Sergeant Ashton and Officer Barnett in close pursuit. Big game hunting excursion came to an end after monkey had put three blocks and 14 houses between himself and pursuers."

Early yesterday morning a resident at 2016 Gramercy phoned police that the simian was perched on his roof and the chase was on again. The owner finally recaptured the animal.

Threatens Other Buildings
A firecracker tossed on an overstuffed chair setting outside of a five-car garage at 716 Portola is believed by firemen to have caused the blaze which attracted hundreds of spectators to the scene as the flames shot high in the air Monday night.

The garage was practically destroyed although firemen managed to prevent spread of the blaze to other nearby garages and homes. Young Smith's racing car, in which he had recently installed a Crager motor in preparation for speed dashes at Harpers Dry Lake, was badly damaged but can be repaired.

Mrs. Mary Smith was owner of the garages. A large quantity of furniture, bedding and other household goods was lost in the flames.

Firecracker Victims
Those treated at Torrance Memorial hospital for injuries sustained during the fire were: (Continued on Page 2-A)

Table with columns: Day, Date, Team, 1st Round versus Team, Day, Time, Night Time. Lists games for Torrance City Park from July 8 to July 19.

NOTE: Asterisk * indicates Home Team

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SCHOOL BOARD UPS SALARIES

Supervisors Anticipate No Increase in Taxes
Prospect of a 19-cent jump in the general county tax levy, which now stands at \$1.51, was discounted today at the Hall of Records after county officials had taken a second look at the preliminary budget presented to them Friday for adoption for the new year 1939-40.

Supervisor William A. Smith, who was the moving force in cutting salaries of some 60 department heads and lesser officials in order to effect a saving of about \$50,000, said today he believed that it would be possible to avoid any increase in the county tax rate next year, a statement in which other members of the board concurred.

Higher schedules of pay for some 500 skilled trade employees were adopted on motion of John Dalton. This will cost \$24,905 in next year's budget and \$49,257 for the next five years, the board was told.

Legion's Disaster Mobilization Test Due Soon

Every effort will be made by the local American Legion Post and Auxiliary to complete a 100 percent mobilization when the Legion's annual disaster test will be held some time between now and July 15.

These units are to report at either the American Legion clubhouse or the central fire station when the mobilization call comes thru over radio networks. The test will start at noon on the day to be chosen and continue until 9 p. m.

HARRY ALCORN DIES TUESDAY

Ill since last December, Harry L. Alcorn, pharmacist here for the past 11 years at 2203 Torrance boulevard, passed away Tuesday afternoon at his daughter's home in Van Nuys.

Funeral service was held this afternoon at Stone and Myers' chapel with Frank Steinhilber, Christian Science reader, officiating. Members of the Torrance Masonic lodge assisted in the rites and private cremation followed at Pacific Crest.

Mr. Alcorn came to Torrance from St. Mary's, Idaho. He had a great many acquaintances here and was regarded as a man of sterling character and high business integrity.

He was a member of St. Mary's (Idaho) Masonic lodge, No. 83 and of Eastern Star, Idaho chapter, No. 49. Mr. Alcorn was also a former veteran member of the Torrance Kiwanis club.

In very poor health for the past several months, he was removed to Mrs. Singer's home Sunday.

Next scheduled meeting of the city council is set for Tuesday night, July 11.

STEEL MEN ADVANCED

Promotion of Lou Greenman, chief time keeper at the Columbia Steel plant for the past eight years, to personnel manager this week made possible a step-by-step advancement for seven other Columbia Steel employees this week according to an announcement made today by Superintendent Henry T. Lintott.

Greenman succeeds Howard Swallow as personnel manager. Swallow, who has been with Columbia Steel since the fall of 1936, expects to enter private consulting work. Other promotions were: Maxwell Smarte to Greenman's position from office supervisor in order department; J. J. O'Donnell to Smarte's position from Rolling Mill and Foundry order trader; Paul Fortin to O'Donnell's position from Sheet Mill load provider; Graydon Smarte to Fortin's position from Sheet Mill finishing department; George Wilson to Smarte's position from clerk; Daniel McLaughlin to Wilson's position from Rolling Mill inventory clerk; William M. Everett to McLaughlin's position from Sheet Mill finishing department weighmaster.

Lintott has made a temporary assignment of Everett's former job to an employee from the ranks and expects to announce the definite promotion in the near future. It was learned at the Columbia plant today that Walter Wallace who has been stationed at the firm's display at the San Francisco Exposition has returned to his position in the metallurgical department here. Jack Snow will be appointed Hot Mill turn foreman, effective July 16, Lintott said.

Pencil Portraits of Prominent Personalities

Sketched by ELIZABETH LOSEY

He saw World War service as a soldier on four fronts and today he's continuing that service on the home-town front. Texas-born Mayor Tolson came to Torrance 24 years ago next month. He has been this city's chief executive since March 1, 1917, and has five years' service as a member of the city council.



WILLIAM H. TOLSON Mayor, City of Torrance

Overseas nine months with the 21st division, he values his American Legion membership. He is this city's ninth mayor.